

REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of July 26, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks. Claims 2, 3, 6, 8 and 31 have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7 and 18-29 are cancelled. Claims 32-43 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-3, 6, 8-17 and 30-43 are now pending after entry of this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claim Objections

Claim 31 was objected to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 31 has been amended to depend from claim 30. The applicant thanks the Examiner for bringing the typographical error to the applicant's attention.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in most (but not all) of the claims from which it depends. Specifically, claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the limitations from previously pending claims 1, 5 and 24. The applicant believes that claim 6 is now in condition for allowance.

Section 102 Rejections

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,639,249 (Valliath). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 3 has been amended to depend from amended claim 6. As stated above, the applicant believes that amended claim 6 is in condition for allowance. Because claim 3 adds at least one additional limitation to a claim that the applicants submits is allowable, the applicant also submits that claim 3 is allowable.

Section 103 Rejections

Claim 3 was rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,583,350 (Norman) in view of Valliath. As stated above, the applicant has amended claim 3 to depend from claim 6. Because applicant believes that claim 6 is allowable, the applicant submits that dependent claim 3 is similarly allowable.

Claims 8-10 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norman in view of Valliath and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,329,085 (Burrows). The applicant respectfully traverses.

Amended claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 6. As stated above, claim 6 is now in condition for allowance. The applicant submits that claim 8 is similarly allowable. Claims 9-10 and 12-17 depend indirectly from claim 6 and are similarly allowable.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norman in view of Valliath and further in view of U.S. Application No. 2002/0135296 (Aziz). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 6. As described above, the applicant submits that claim 6 is allowable and that claims depending from an allowable claim are similarly allowable. Thus, applicant submits that dependent claim 2 is allowable.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norman in view of Valliath and further in view Aziz. The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 11 depends indirectly from claim 6. As described above, the applicant submits that claim 6 is allowable and that claims depending from an allowable claim are similarly allowable. The applicant therefore submits that claim 11 is allowable.

New Claims

Claims 32-43 have been added. No new matter has been added. Each of the additional claims depend directly or indirectly from allowed claim 30. The applicant submits that the new claims are therefore allowable.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The applicant thanks the Examiner for finding claim 30 to be allowable. The applicant notes that in addition to the Examiner's reasons for allowability, additional reasons for allowability may also exist.

Information Disclosure Statement

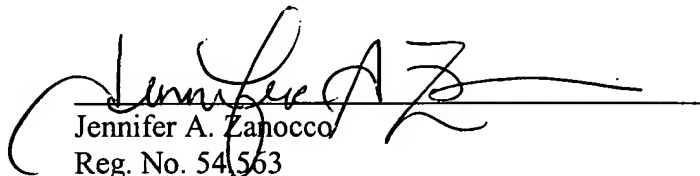
The applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial a copy of the references on the attached Form-1449. These references were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) properly filed under 37 CFR 1.98 on July 17, 2003. Attached is a copy of the stamped postcard proving receipt of the IDS by the Patent Office on July 21, 2003.

No fee is believed to be due. If, however, there are any charges or credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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Jennifer A. Zanoocco
Reg. No. 54,563

Customer No.: 26181
Fish & Richardson P.C.
Telephone: (650) 839-5070
Facsimile: (650) 839-5071